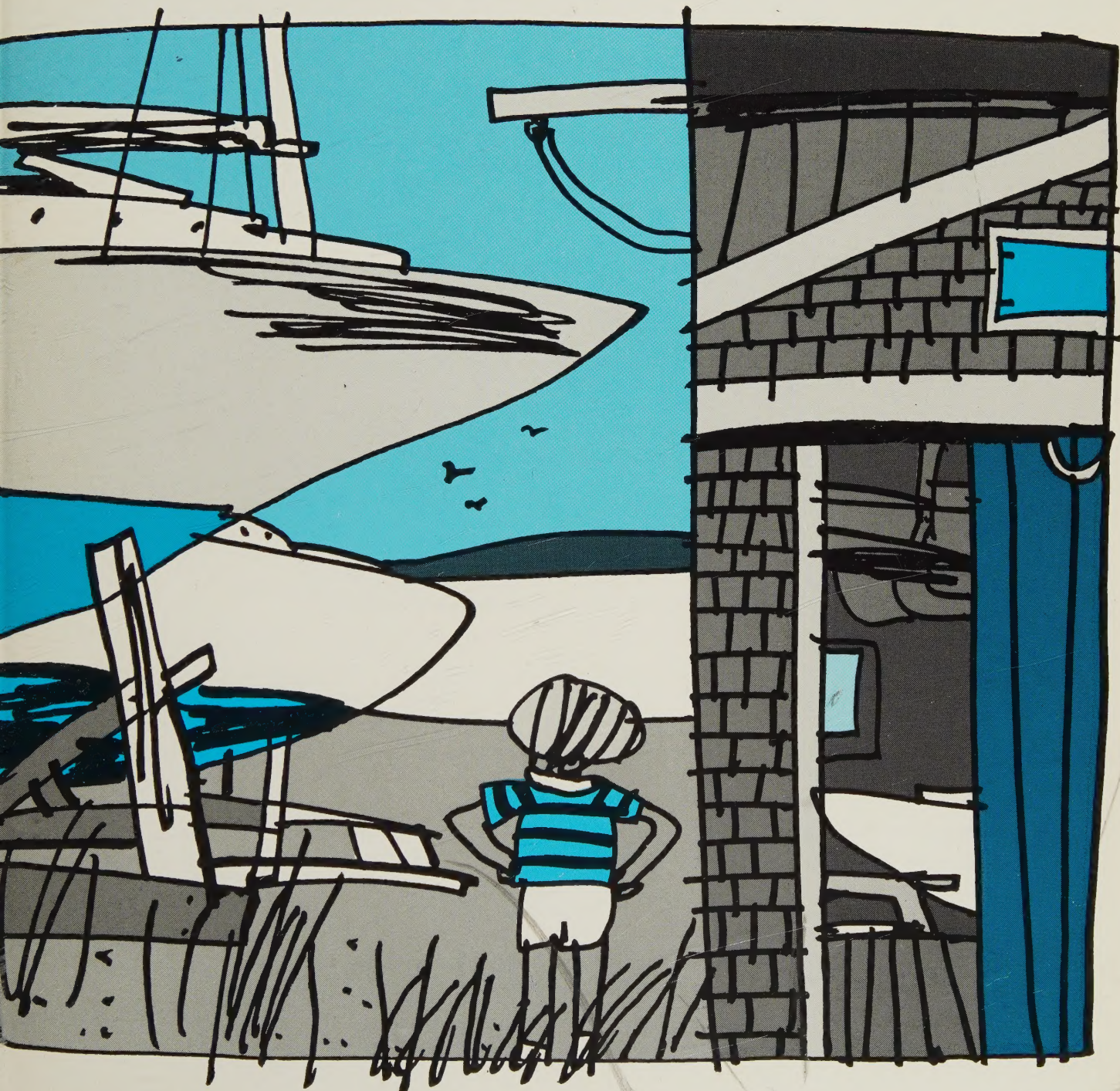


Starting Comprehension

STORIES TO ADVANCE READING & THINKING

Starting Phonetically 6

Ann L. Staman



To the Teacher

This series of reading comprehension workbooks has been written for students who are at the early stages of learning to read. The series develops four essential comprehension skills: literal (recall of facts); inferential (main idea); organizational (sequencing and/or categorization); and vocabulary.

Because research indicates that children learn to read in different ways, the series has been written in two different strands to accommodate two reading styles:

The Phonetic-Analytic strand is designed for the child who is good at phonics, but has trouble learning nonphonetic, or sight words.

The Visual-Gestalt strand is written for the student who has a strong visual sense and learns whole words easily, but has trouble learning phonics.

Because the content is adapted to individual reading styles, the passages present a minimum of distractions to the early reader, and thus promote reading for meaning.

A detailed Teacher's Manual provides additional information on:

How to determine which strand to use

- Checklists of reading style characteristics
- Test patterns for different types of readers

Using the series

- How to integrate the series into the classroom
- Suggestions for teaching the comprehension activities
- Enrichment activities
- Lists of phonetic/grammatical elements in the books

Bibliography

- Supporting research and articles
- Diagnostic tests available

Phonetic-Analytic Book 6

This book is the sixth of six books in the strand designed for students who learn to read most easily through the phonetic-analytic method. These students decode by associating letters with sounds and blending them together; they tend to learn phonetic words before nonphonetic words. Thus, most of the vocabulary in this strand is phonetically structured to avoid frustration and promote reading for meaning.

I wish to thank Dorothy Miller, my editor, for all her help and support.

Cover design by Hugh Price



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You put socks on your feet .
feet socks valley sneeze

 is the before June.
spray raise May month

Jean a story to .
bee reads Gail bait

You with your .
gray ears beneath hear

Lee drank a of .
feet who glass water

The whale lives in the sea, but it is not a fish. It is a mammal, just like dogs, cats, and people, and it is the biggest mammal alive. Mammals don't breathe with gills, the way fish do. They have lungs to breathe with. Like other mammals, the whale has a big brain, and its babies get milk from the mother. Whales have some hair on them, too, but not as much as most other mammals have.

Whales are huge—between fifteen and a hundred feet long. Their thick blubber, or fat, keeps them from getting cold in the sea, and their flat tails help them to steer and swim. Whales can see and hear well. They have a way of speaking to each other in whistles, too.

The humpback whale is about fifty feet long. It is black on top, white underneath, and has long flippers. This kind of whale stays fairly near the shore, where it eats mostly small fish.

Who breathes with gills?

Fish

breathe with gills.

Whales

Fish

People

Humpbacks

What is the size of the humpback whale?

It is

feet long.

a hundred

fifty

fifteen

five hundred

"Class, I want you to meet Kay Parker," said Dee's teacher, Mrs. Dean. "Kay is blind, and she is going to be in this class for reading."

Dee and the other children said "hi" to Kay. Then Dee raised her hand.

"Excuse me." She began to speak, waited, then went on. "I don't mean to be mean," Dee said, "but can Kay read if she can't see?"

"I'm glad you asked," said Mrs. Dean. "Help me explain, Kay."

Kay picked up a book and held it up for the class to see.

"Kay doesn't read the way you children read. She doesn't look at letters on the page. She reads Braille. Pages written in Braille have small raised dots or bumps on them. The dots are like letters. Blind people 'read' the dots by feeling them with the tips of their fingers. Today Kay will read the same story we do, but she will read it in Braille."

Kay rubbed her fingers along the first line and told the children what it said.

"That's neat," said Dee. "Will you teach us, Kay?"

What is the main idea?

Mrs. Dean is blind.

Dee reads to Kay.

Kay reads Braille.

Dee teaches Braille to Kay.

Kay reads Braille.

Dean was carrying Kitty the kitten home from the pet store. Kitty was afraid. She twisted and wriggled and scratched until Dean had to let go of her, and then—whee!—she got away and streaked down the street.

“Mmm—good!” she said, raising her nose in the air. “I smell fish!” She trailed the smell to an old pail of bait behind Mr. Carver’s fish store. She knocked the pail over, ate some of the bait, and then rolled in the rest. Did she smell bad! Then she scampered off, leaving a trail of fishy smell behind her.

In the next block, Mrs. Heath was painting a chair white.

“Yummy! I need some milk,” Kitty said when she saw the bucketful of white stuff. She ran up to the pail and dipped her nose in. But Mrs. Heath saw her, screamed, and jumped—and as she did she spilled the paint all over Kitty. Kitty ran away, but she had paint all over her, and she left a trail of white paint dripping behind her.

Meanwhile, Dean trailed the fishy smell and the paint tracks. When Kitty had her nose in a trash can, Dean reached out and grabbed her.

“I’m glad you made a mess,” he told her, “so I was able to find you.”

What is the main idea?

☒ Kitty runs away.

☐ Kitty steals an eagle.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

2 Kitty eats the bait.

1 Kitty jumps out of Dean’s hands.

X Kitty licks Dean.

3 Kitty dips her nose in the paint.

4 Dean catches Kitty.

X The kitten rolls in the paint.

Mr. Smith _____ the van onto the _____ .

street

steers

sleep

strain

A _____ is on the _____ .

afraid

stairs

raise

nail

The branch of the _____ bends in the _____ .

need

tree

breeze

tray

The kitten has a _____ .

greet

gray

say

tail

The ice _____ was good to _____ .

sweet

leash

cream

eat

Jean and her three older sisters are camping in a clearing by a stream. Jean's sisters are twelve, fifteen, and sixteen years old. Jean is just nine. As the sun begins to set, Jean begins to feel afraid. She hears the peepers croaking by the stream, and the trees creaking in the wind.

"What if a wild animal comes?" asks Jean.

"There are no animals here but deer, and they are afraid of you," says Dee. "Put your sleeping bag between Dee's and mine, and you will be safe," adds Gail, the oldest.

"Snuggle into your sleeping bag and I will tell you a bedtime story," says the twelve-year-old, Kay.

Kay begins to tell a funny story about the Peanut Butter Fairy. Jean giggles a lot, and by the time Kay has nearly reached the end of the story, she is asleep.

What is Jean's age? Jean is _____
_____ years old.

nine

three

fifteen

Where are the sisters camping? They are camping _____

near a peanut

in a tree house

by a stream

"Brr! It's cold today and I hate winter," said Gail as she swept the driveway. She breathed in the crisp, fall air as the leaves rustled beneath her feet.

When the driveway was clear, she sat down near the beech tree in a big heap of leaves Dad had raked.

"At least I don't have to admit that it's winter until the last leaf has fallen from the trees," she said.

She looked up at the branches. They seemed black and bare against the pale gray sky. Nearly all the leaves had fallen from the trees, but one lone leaf was left hanging from the end of a branch, swaying in the breeze.

Then a strong gust of wind began to shake the tree and chase the fallen leaves. The leaf flapped in the wind, still clinging to its branches.

"Oh, please don't fall!" prayed Gail, as she watched the leaf. But then the strongest gust of all was too much for the leaf. It fluttered to and fro, then landed in Gail's lap.

What is the main idea?

Gail likes to be cold.

Winter begins for Gail.

It is springtime for Gail.

Gail hates playing in leaves.

The red team and the white team are playing baseball in the lot near Greg's house. Greg, who is on the red team, is up at bat. The first pitch is too wide, and the next two are too close to Greg.

"Three balls!" thinks Greg. "Maybe I'll get walked to first base."

Greg hits the next pitch onto the grass near the pitcher and runs as fast as he can to first base. The pitcher runs to get the ball, but Greg's dog, who has been watching the game from the gate, runs faster and picks up the ball in his teeth. The pitcher is upset that he can't get the ball. "No fair!" he yells.

The dog runs to Greg and drops the ball at his feet. By this time, Greg is near first base, and he keeps going. The ball goes between Greg and the first base man. The first base man grabs the ball and tags Greg.

"Out!" yells the pitcher.

Greg walks over and pats his dog. "Nice catch," he tells him, "but you helped the wrong team."

What is the main idea?

— Greg's dog helps the red team.

— The dog helps the white team.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ The dog grabs the ball.

_____ Greg strikes out.

_____ Greg has a hit.

_____ The dog drops the ball.

_____ Greg grabs the ball.

_____ The first base man tags Greg.

Jean is _____ old.
train pay sixteen years

It _____ on the _____.
seen rained plain pail

Dad ate _____ and _____.
jeeps beans peas seats

Kathy's long _____ goes down to her _____.
hear weep waist hair

The _____ graze on the _____ grass.
sheep green pain speak

Dean dives under a wave just in time, but Kay doesn't see it coming so she gets knocked over. They are both giggling as the wave ebbs back into the sea.

"I'll race you up the beach!" yells Kay, and the two children run off at top speed.

Meanwhile, Mom is walking down the beach with Bobby, hunting for seashells and collecting them in a pail. Bobby kneels down and picks up something from the seaweed.

"Look at this one, Mom!" he says. "It's shiny blue and silver."

"That's a mussel," Mom tells him. "They are good to eat."

While all this is going on, Dad is sitting in a beach chair reading and watching little Andy running around in the sand, chasing seagulls.

At last it is time to go home.

"Shake all the sand off your feet before you get in the van," Dad tells the children. "We don't want to bring the beach home with us."

"Why not?" jokes Dean. "That seems like a good idea to me!"

What does Bobby pick up? He picks up

seaweed

a green shell

the reef

a mussel

Who plays with Dean?

plays with Dean.

Kay

Bobby

Dad

Andy

“My ice cream cone is better than yours,” says Gail, trying to make Lee mad.

“It’s real peach!” The two children are walking home in the hot sun.

Lee wants to ignore his sister. The cherry ice cream is dripping down the sides of his cone, and he keeps licking as fast as he can.

Gail doesn’t give up. “Mine is bigger than yours, too,” she nags.

Lee still wants to ignore her, but he is getting mad. He sees that her cone is bigger than his. “That’s not fair!” he says. “Yours is bigger.”

Gail sticks her nose up in the air. “You just eat yours faster than I do. I like to save mine as long as I can.”

Lee is angry. He doesn’t like being outdone by his sister, so he stops eating. As soon as they reach home, he sneaks into the kitchen and puts his ice cream in the freezer. Gail comes into the kitchen, gobbling up the last bite of her cone.

Lee smiles at her. “I still have the rest of my cone left,” he tells her, “and I can save it for as long as I want. It’s in the freezer!”

What is the main idea?

Gail’s cone lasts longer than Lee’s. The man gave Lee less ice cream than Gail.

Lee’s ice cream drips. Lee and Gail eat ice cream cones.

“What are you doing?” asked Janey when she walked into the kitchen and saw her oldest sister standing by the stove.

“Mom and Dad got married fifteen years ago today,” said Patsy, “so I told them I’d make dinner.”

“Neat! Can I help?” Janey asked. She grabbed an egg beater from the drying rack on the sink.

Patsy smiled and told her sister gently, “Yes, you can help, but we don’t need eggs beaten. First get a tray and take the cheese and crackers in to Mom and Dad.”

Eager to help, Janey carried the tray into the den. Meanwhile, Patsy peeked at the beef and checked the green beans and rice on the top of the stove. They were not quite done.

Janey came running back to the kitchen. “This is fun, making dinner. Let’s have cake and ice cream first!”

“Sweet things come *after* dinner,” Patsy explained. “Let’s take out the beef.”

What is the main idea?

___ Patsy beats the eggs.

___ Patsy and Janey make dinner.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Janey liked to eat peas.

_____ Janey ate cake first.

_____ Janey asked for cake and ice

_____ Janey carried the tray.

cream.

_____ Patsy checked the beef and

beans.

The _____ has _____ to help her.
jail maids way queen

My bike _____ is made of _____.
steel cheer chain dream

A _____ is longer than a _____.
pair week day freeze

The _____ is _____ of the hunter.
paid brain deer afraid

The _____ has six _____.
read wheels cheek trailer

Kay and her English sheep dog, Heath, walk into the kitchen, where Mom is making lunch. Mom screams when she sees that all the dog's hair has been shaved off. Heath sits down and begins to scratch his ears with his hind foot.

"What did they do to him?" she asks.

"The vet shaved him so the fleas can't hide in his long hair. We have to treat him with this stuff three times a day," says Kay, handing Mom the spray bottle.

"OK," Mom tells her, "let's get it over with. You hold the leash, and I'll wash."

Outside, Mom kneels down and sprays the flea bath on the dog. Then she scrubs him with a sponge and rinses him off with the hose.

"That stuff smells really bad," says Kay.

"Yes," says Mom, "but it kills those nasty fleas."

Why did the dog go to the vet? The dog has

long hair

a bad sprain

painful feet

fleas

What kind of dog does Kay have? She has an

mutt

English setter

English sheep dog

collie

“Let’s get a jeep!” Lee said to her father as they walked by a place that sold jeeps.

“I don’t think so,” said Dad. “They’re not what we need.”

“But Dad, they have 4-wheel drive, so they can go on steep trails and ride on the sand at the beach. They can drag things out of the mud or pull trailers behind them. And on some jeeps you can take the top off and have a fun, breezy ride! Let’s get one, please!”

“We don’t need to go on steep trails or sandy beaches,” Dad explained. “We need something bigger, like a van, that can carry all 7 of us. Besides, the ride is too bumpy in a jeep.”

What is the main idea?

Jeeps have seatbelts.

Lee wants a jeep.

Dad wants a jeep.

Jeeps have wheels.

Gail had her friend Kay over to dinner. At the end of the meal, Gail got up from her chair and said, "Excuse me. I have to go upstairs to floss and brush my teeth. I'll be back."

"That's a really good idea," said Kay. "Can I come, too? I need to take better care of my teeth."

"Fine. Come on!" agreed Gail.

The two of them went upstairs and got the dental floss from the shelf. As she was pulling the floss out of its case, Gail explained, "Since I went to the dentist I've been doing this after I eat."

"I need to do that, too," said Kay. "Then maybe I won't need to get any fillings."

What is the main idea?

___ Kay and Gail have bad teeth.

___ Kay and Gail floss their teeth.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ They get the dental floss.

_____ They floss their teeth.

_____ They go upstairs.

_____ Gail chips her front teeth.

_____ Gail and Kay eat dinner.

_____ Kay goes to the dentist.

The _____ can _____ in the pond.

throat

boat

float

beat

You _____ with _____ .

soap

clean

steep

clay

I like to _____ my _____ with jam.

coat

toast

crow

eat

The _____ is next to the _____ .

sidewalk

read

throw

road

Mrs. Heath said, " _____ at that _____ !"

least

deer

Look

low

“Don’t go to the Witch House!” Danny tells Hank and Dee. “It’s really scary!”

They are at the fair.

“I’m not afraid,” says Hank. “Neither am I,” adds Dee.

Dee and Hank get in their seats on the little train. As the train rolls down the track into the Witch House, the track begins to creak. Then, suddenly, all is black. The children hear screams and then a wicked cackle. The train stops and a huge, creepy witch appears near where Dee and Hank are sitting—too near! She has a green face and long, matted hair. Her hair and her ragged dress are full of cobwebs, and bats are clinging to her sleeve. The witch puts out her hands as if to grab the children. The bats squeak. Dee screams, and Hank almost jumps out of his seat.

Just then the train begins to go again. Hank is still breathing fast, and Dee can’t speak by the time the train gets back outside. Danny is waiting by the steps.

“See what I mean?” he asks.

Who screams in the Witch House?

screams.

Danny

Hank

Dee

The witch

Where are the bats? They are on the

train

children

witch’s waist

witch’s sleeve

It was a cold, gray, rainy day in the middle of the summer.

"I hate days like this," Max said to his sister, as they walked home from the trolley stop.

"Not me," said Bev. "I'd like it to stay like this all year."

"Why?" asked Max. "Don't you like the sunshine?"

"Yes," said Bev, "but I hate the heat, and that heat wave we had last week was too much. I was so hot I was beat. All I did that whole week was sit near the fan and drink mint tea with ice. But when it rains, it is not as hot so I don't mind staying home. Then I can read or play or take a nap or chat on the phone."

"I don't agree," said Max. "I like to stay outside and ride around on my bike all day. I don't care if it reaches a hundred, as long as it's not raining."

What is the main idea?

Max and Bev chat about the heat.

Max likes the rain.

It is a hot day.

Dee likes to drink iced tea.

“What a bad day this has been,” said Mrs. Heath to her husband, as she came home from her job as a beekeeper.

“Lots of things went wrong. I can’t wait to sit down, put my feet up, and rest.”

With her jacket still on, she plopped herself down on the old green easy chair. CRUNCH!! The left leg of the chair was weak, and it broke. As Mrs. Heath fell on her knees she snapped, “I told you this was a bad day for me, and it doesn’t seem to be getting much better!”

By the time her husband reached her, Mrs. Heath was leaning on the side of the chair and smiling. “Look what was behind the chair—the ring I lost last year! Today hasn’t been such a bad day after all!”

What is the main idea?

___ Mrs. Heath had a lucky day.

___ Mrs. Heath had a bad day.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Mrs. Heath sat on her husband.

_____ Mrs. Heath came home.

_____ The chair broke.

_____ Mrs. Heath saw her ring.

_____ Mrs. Heath napped in the chair.

_____ Mrs. Heath sat in the chair.

Joan has new _____ for her _____ .
owe boat fear oars

You have ten _____ on your _____ .
glow feet toes loaf

The _____ will _____ the baseball.
load throw pitcher roast

Joan _____ Mom her new _____ .
coat grow showed toe

An _____ tree will _____ to be big.
oak grow flow hoe

“Look!” said Mom, as she and her children drove by the school down the street.

“Those kids are doing a May Pole dance.”

“What’s that?” asked Ray.

Mom stopped the car. “On the first day of May, or May Day, people dance around the May Pole to welcome spring,” she explained. “See the pink and green streamers pinned to the top of the pole? As people dance in a circle around the pole, they are weaving the streamers together like a braid.”

“Why does that woman in the white dress have daisies in her hair?” asked Sally.

“It looks like she’s the May Queen,” Mom told her.

“I think they need a May King, too,” said Ray.

Who has daisies in her hair?

_____ has daisies in her hair.

The Princess

The May Queen

Mom

Sally

What is pinned to the May Pole?

_____ are pinned to the May Pole.

Children

Blossoms

Streamers

Baskets

Dad said to Kate and Bill, "Today I'm going to teach you to use a hammer." He gave each of them a hammer and a block of pine. Then he told them, "Pick up the hammer in one hand and hold it at the end."

Next Dad gave each of them a nail. He said, "Hold the nail here with your other hand, like this. Keep your fingers at the base of the nail. Then tap the top with the hammer. Just keep on tapping until the nail goes in deep. But do not try to hammer too fast, and be careful to hit the nail, not your fingers!"

Just then, Kate sneezed. Dad smiled at her. "I'm glad you didn't do that while you were trying to hammer," he said.

What is the main idea?

The kids have blocks of pine.

Dad hammers the chair.

Dad teaches the kids to hammer.

Kate sneezes.

While Mrs. Heath is upstairs drying her hair with the hair dryer, a robber is sneaking into her house. Mrs. Heath doesn't hear him. He piles all the things he wants into a big heap in the hall—a pair of gold candlesticks, a silver tray, the VCR, a heater, and—biggest of all—the TV.

It is too much for the robber to carry, but he is greedy, so he keeps trying. He has just picked up the last thing and is about to leave when he drops the TV. BANG!! It lands on his feet, and he screams at the top of his lungs!

This time she hears the robber. She runs to the phone and calls the cops.

Meanwhile, the robber begins to limp away, but by the time he reaches the end of the driveway the cops are there.

“You'll have to come with us,” says one cop as the other takes the robber's arm.

What is the main idea?

___ A robber comes to Mrs. Heath's house.

___ The robber gets a new TV.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ The cops get the robber.

_____ Mrs. Heath calls the cops.

_____ Mrs. Heath grabs the robber.

_____ The robber grabs the cops.

_____ The robber drops the TV.

_____ The robber picks up the TV.

The _____ is _____ of oatmeal.
bowl full tow peel

The _____ truck is very _____.
toad bow slow tow

Joe _____ the grass so it is _____.
meal row low mows

The _____ has a huge _____.
throat toad steam reach

At _____ we need _____ to see.
light load fight night

A toad is like a frog, but the frog is thinner and has longer legs. Toads have no tails and they have very thick, bumpy skin. Glands in the bumpy skin make something that toads can spray on you. It can make you sick.

Toads can't hop as well as frogs. Frogs jump or hop to get away if they are being chased, but toads just sit there.

Toads sleep in the daytime and eat bugs when the sun goes down. Most of the time toads live on land, but they lay eggs in ponds, and the eggs hatch into tadpoles.

When does the toad sleep? The toad sleeps

in the summer at ten o'clock when the sun sets in the daytime

Where does the toad lay eggs? The toad lays eggs

in a hen house on the land in the pond under a tree

The king and queen were happy. They had a huge castle, each other, and—best of all—they had one child, Princess Daisy, with long hair, soft skin, and a sweet, sunny smile that made you think of daisies. The king always felt happy when he saw the princess.

Then, one gray day, the queen passed away. The king was so sad that he didn't want to see people. He locked himself in one place and wept for weeks and weeks. He was so sad that he forgot about Princess Daisy. She wanted to share the sadness with him but he kept himself locked up and didn't see her.

Princess Daisy was sad, too, but she had hope. Each day she leaned out the window and prayed for the king to get better. Each night a daisy began to grow in the grass below her window, until there were well over a hundred daisies outside the castle.

One day, the king, in all his sadness, happened to look out and there he saw the daisies. "Princess Daisy!" he said to himself. "I must see her!"

He called for the princess, and they hugged and hugged. The more he looked at her hopeful, happy face, the better he felt. "I miss the queen," he told her, "but I am so lucky to have you!"

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Princess Daisy was angry. | The king hated daisies. |
| The princess had long hair. | The princess helped the king. |

Dee saw Dad in the van, sweeping the seat with a dust pan and brush. "What are you doing, Dad?" asked Dee.

"I'm sweeping up cat hair," he told her.

"What is cat hair doing on the seat?" she asked.

"It's Kitty's. Each winter, cats grow long hair to keep them from getting too cold. It's called their winter coat. Then, in the spring, they don't need that long hair, so it drops off. That's called shedding. Kitty leaves tufts of her winter coat in places where she has been. Look. You can tell that she was sleeping here on the back seat."

"I bet I know another place where she has been sleeping. There is cat hair on my bed, too. I'm going to find Kitty."

What is the main idea?

☐ Dee has long hair.

☐ The cat is shedding.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Dee saw Dad.

☐ Dad swept the seat.

☐ Dee went to find Kitty.

☐ Dad cut Dee's hair.

☐ Dad sweeps Dee's bed.

☐ Dad told Dee about shedding.

The dump truck has a _____ of _____ .
bow snow load glow

The _____ is _____ to the boat.
loaf hoe flying crow

Joan has a _____ in her _____ .
hopeful bow bowling hair

The _____ can _____ on the lake.
boat helpful low float

The sun's _____ is too _____ .
bright light right tight

Fruit grows in many places. Apples, peaches, plums, and cherries grow on trees. Most berries—like raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries—grow on bushes, and cranberries grow on vines in low, wet places like bogs or swamps. Grapes grow on vines, too, but in dry, high places.

Fruit grows year after year, so the people who grow it don't have to keep planting seeds again each spring. But fruit growers do have to take good care of the plants. The plants have to be pruned each year to cut back the weak branches. People need to feed the fruit to kill insects. Otherwise, insects will be more likely to eat the fruit.

Fruit is good to eat and good for you, too. It tastes good all by itself or made into pies, crumblers, juice, fruit cup, fruitcake, or ice cream.

Did you know that nuts are fruit, too?

What is pruning? Pruning means _____

eating growing cutting spraying

Where do cranberries grow? They grow in _____

swamps trees dry places bushes

It had been raining all day, but the sky was slowly beginning to clear. On one side of the house it was sunny, and on the other side it was drizzling.

“Let’s go outside,” Dad told Kay, “and see if there’s a rainbow.”

“Neat!” said Kay.

They walked out the back door, and there it was against the gray sky—a huge, bright rainbow.

“Dad, you were right. What made you think there might be a rainbow?”

“Rainbows sometimes appear when the sun shines on raindrops in the air, so there must be rain and sunshine at the same time.”

What is the main idea?

The sky was clearing.

The rainbow is all blue.

Dad and Kay see a rainbow.

The rainbow grows on the door.

“This is the place where I most like to be,” says Joan to her friend, “—the coast of Maine. It makes me feel so peaceful.” She breathes deeply to smell the pine trees, then looks all around her.

Below, on the flat rocks, a seagull is strutting about looking for some dinner. She hears a putt-putt sound. A lobsterman steers his boat carefully in the cove. He is checking his traps to see if he has gotten some lobsters. He pulls the rope holding a trap and finds one big green lobster inside.

Joan hears a splash off the rocks and looks to see the seagull diving for a fish for dinner. Then she hears a smaller splash out on the bay. It’s fish leaping into the air, hunting for insects to eat.

Joan leans back against a tree. “It was really fun today in my uncle’s sailboat,” she says to her friend. “We saw some seals out on a ledge, and on the way home some dolphins followed us for a while.”

“There is just one animal I still want to see—a puffin,” her friend says.

What is the main idea?

☐ Joan likes Maine.

☐ Joan wants a pet seagull.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ A seagull takes a dive.

☐ Joan smells the pines.

☐ Joan splashes in the bay.

☐ She sees a lobster boat.

☐ Some fish jump in the bay.

☐ Joan’s dad has a sailboat.

_____ had a _____ with his sister.
fight blue fries Joe

_____ mom is a _____.
woman Sue's pie glue

Dad put on a _____.
blue spies tie cried

Jeff likes to _____ French _____.
die true eat fries

Is it _____ that you made a _____ ?
dries pie true due

Joe woke up wheezing and sneezing. He had a scratchy sore throat that felt most painful when he swallowed, and his nose was stuffed up.

Joe groaned. "I can't be sick! Today's my first hockey game!" He sniffled, then gave his nose a good blow and felt his cheeks. They felt hot, and he felt like he was going to faint, so he asked his mother to take a look at him.

"It seems to be the flu," she told him, feeling his cheeks. "I know you wanted to play in the game, but you'd better stay in bed, get plenty of rest, and drink lots of juice."

Joe lay down on his bed. He was upset to be missing the game. "But I can tell I really am sick, so I can't be much help to my teammates when I'm like this," he said to himself. "Well, at least I can read and watch TV."

Where is Joe's mom? She is _____

_____.

at home at a hockey game on the phone at her desk

What is wrong with Joe? He seems to have _____

_____.

a sprain the flu a mild cold an infected cut

Eels are long, thin fish that are shaped like snakes and have wet, slippery, thin skin. Some eels have scales on their skin. But unlike snakes, they have flat tails. Most eels live in the sea, but some live in streams.

Grown eels are between three and six feet long. In the fall of the year, eels swim from their homes in the streams down to the sea to breed. After they lay their eggs there, they die. Next spring, the little eels appear. At about one year old, the eels swim back upstream. They grow up there until it is time to breed.

Some people like to catch eels for eating; some people catch small sand eels for bait. One way they get them is by putting out nets and trapping them when the eels swim downstream to breed. Another way people catch eels is by spearing them in shallow or muddy places in streams.

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eels live on land. | Eels are a kind of fish. |
| Eels are three inches long. | Eels have scales. |

It is Joe's first time playing in a hockey game. His friend passes him the puck. Joe gets the puck and speeds for the goal. He is thinking about making a goal, so he barely hears the people cheering for him.

He pulls back his hockey stick and hits the puck. Wham! The puck slides fast on the ice, but the goalie nabs it and passes it to one of his teammates. Joe is skating so fast that he skids right into the goal post.

"Try again!" yells Joe's coach. Joe's friend steals the puck from the other team and again passes it to Joe. Again Joe aims at the goal, but this time it slides a bit to the side of the goalie. The goalie comes out to kick the puck, but misses.

It happens like lightning. The puck flies by the goalie and lodges in the net at the back of the goal.

The people roar! Joe's teammates skate over and pat him on the back. Joe has made his first goal in his first game.

What is the main idea?

___ Joe misses the goal.

___ Joe makes a goal.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Joe's teammates pat him.

_____ Joe's friend makes a goal.

_____ Joe's coach yells.

_____ The goalie gets the puck.

_____ The goalie misses the puck.

_____ Joe cracks the goal post.

The little _____ its wings.

clue

either

bluejay

tries

Mick waited until the _____

flow

dried

glue

where

The _____ is _____ up in the sky.

high

airplane

clue

elbow

_____ is five days _____

Sunday.

before

lie

Tuesday

bruise

A _____ is a kind of _____

fuel

blueberry

cries

fruit

“My cat has six toes on one of her feet,” Ben tells his friend, Jay.

“I bet you made that up,” replies Jay. “You don’t have to make things up to impress me.”

“I’m not lying!” insists Ben. “It’s really true! I’ll get my cat and show you.” He hurries out of the den to find her.

“Willow!” he calls. “Here, Willow!” But the cat is not around so he can’t show Jay her toes. Ben walks back to the den. As he passes the stairs he sees that a bottle of paint has spilled on the floor.

“What’s that doing there?” he asks himself. When he inspects it more closely, he sees the cat’s tracks in the paint. One of the tracks has six spots where her six toes stepped.

“Jay!” yells Ben. “Come here! I can’t find Willow, but here’s a clue!”

What does Ben find? Ben finds a

cat track willow big toe

Where is the paint? It is on the

train track den door floor

“Do you hear the peepers?” Joan asked her friend Ann as they waited for the sun to set.

“What do you mean, peepers?” replied Ann.

“Peepers are the animals making that high Peep-Peep-Peep down by the stream. Another name for them is tree toads. They are little toads who leap from tree to tree. They have sticky pads on the bottoms of their feet so they don’t fall.

“In the spring, at dusk, you can hear them going ‘Peep! Peep! Peep! Peep!’ That’s the males calling the females. Their throats swell up like a bubble about to pop. The air coming out of their throats makes that peep.

“I like hearing the first peepers. It makes me think spring is here and we can spend more time outside. It means that school will be out before long.”

What is the main idea?

Peepers have sticky feet.

Joan explains about peepers.

The peepers are fighting.

Peepers pop bubbles.

Most of the time Joe wore blue jeans, but on Tuesday night he had a date, so he wanted to get dressed up. He had a bath and washed his hair. After the bath, he shaved, patted some after-shave on his cheeks, and brushed his teeth. Then he put on his blue suit with a bright yellow striped tie.

His sister Jean was in the hall when Joe came out of his room. She squealed when she saw him. "What a handsome sight! Do I know you?"

"Don't tease me," Joe said as he put on his gray raincoat and began to leave.

"I'm not teasing," she told him. "I mean it. You look really good."

Joe floated out of the house, dreaming of his date. "Maybe I really do look good," he said to himself.

What is the main idea?

___ Joe made his bed.

___ Joe got dressed up.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Joe cleaned himself up.

_____ Joe put on his raincoat.

_____ He put on his raincoat.

_____ Joe floated out of the house.

_____ He put on a suit and tie.

_____ He has a yellow cloak.

The black _____ buzzed near the _____ .
pie flies duel cruise

The wet _____ in the sun.
cries dries clue coat

The stream _____ very _____ .
Tuesday slowly flows tie

Mom goes _____ on _____ .
throat bowling Tuesday tow

You can go either up _____ down _____ .
or stairs float lie

“Look out the side window!” yelled Ray, as he and his father were driving one day. “There’s a funny-looking truck driving slowly down the middle of the road. What’s it doing? Are they cleaning the street?”

“No,” Dad told him. “See the pail of paint on the back bumper? The truck is painting white lines on the road.”

“Why?” asked Ray. He hadn’t seen lines on the street before.

Dad explained. “Lines on the road help drivers. They show us what lane to drive in. You have to stay on the right side of the lines. When there are lines side by side, it means no passing there, but a dotted line shows a place where it’s all right to pass.”

“What if a truck drives on the line before the paint dries?” asked Ray.

“The paint they use is fast-drying,” said Dad, “but that does happen sometimes. Then you have a messy line in the middle of the road.”

What do two lines on the road mean?

They mean

pass here

drive slowly

no passing

drive fast

Where was the pail of paint?

It was on the

dotted line

bumper

road

tow truck

Joan had lunch at Neil's house on Tuesday. "I'm going up in an airplane for the first time on Sunday. What was it like when you went in one? Were you afraid?"

"No," Neil told her. "It was fun. Try to sit by a window. Then you can look out and see the roads and houses beneath you. The plane is up so high that big trucks look like little ants, and you can hardly see the people at all. When you look at the land and streams and coastline from an airplane, it's like looking at a map. It's quite a sight."

"I'm still a little afraid," Joan said.

"I bet you will really like it," said Neil. "There was just one thing I didn't like. When the plane lands, it can be really bumpy, so don't forget to keep your seat belt on. If you do get scared, do some deep breathing."

What is the main idea?

Neil tells about flying in an airplane.

Neil saw roads from the airplane.

Neil hated flying in an airplane.

Joan knows about fixing airplanes.

What comes out of frogs' eggs when they hatch in ponds in the spring? Not little frogs, but tadpoles.

You can catch tadpoles and watch them grow if you keep them in water. At first, they look more like little fish than frogs. They swim with fins and a tail, but they don't have legs yet. They don't have lungs to breathe with, but they have gills the way fish do. They eat plants that grow in the water.

Then, slowly, the tadpoles begin to grow. Their gills become lungs, and little stumps begin to bulge from their sides. These grow bigger and become legs and feet. As the tadpoles become grown-up frogs, they need long hind legs for swimming and for jumping on land. Grown-up frogs can catch insects to eat, and make croaking sounds with their big throats.

What is the main idea?

___ Tadpoles grow into frogs.

___ Little frogs hatch from eggs.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Fish eat tadpoles.

_____ They grow legs.

_____ Tadpoles eat plants in ponds.

_____ Tadpoles hatch from eggs.

_____ Grown-up frogs breathe with gills.

_____ Grown-up frogs croak.

The _____ is not _____ .
cried helpful woman dries

The _____ is black and _____ .
blue ties bruise lie

The _____ in the cup is _____ .
show sticky true glue

The child _____ to tie a _____ .
tries bow clue glow

Dad squeezed _____ from the _____ .
cruise suit fruit juice

Guppies are very little fish that live on the tops of ponds and streams, ditches and marshes. Most of the time they eat insects, but sometimes they eat little plants. Their fins can be red and blue or gray and pale green.

Guppies are easy to raise in a fish tank. They are strong, they breed lots of little guppies, and they can live for about three years unless they are unlucky. If the mother guppy gets quite hungry, she sometimes eats her offspring!

The female guppy is about three inches long, is gray and pale green, and swims slowly. The male is smaller, is red, blue, and green with black spots, and swims faster than the female.

Where does the guppy live? It lives in _____

_____.

dollhouses the sea streams cages

What does the hungry female eat? The female eats _____

_____.

her babies the male big fish spots

Dad and Neil borrowed a rowboat to go on a fishing trip. Dad rowed out to the middle of the lake.

“Will you teach me to row?” asked Neil, before they began to fish.

“Hold an oar in each hand, and pull. Keep the paddle end of the oar in the water. The oar lock on the side of the boat helps hold the oar.”

Neil got into the middle seat and began to row. “It’s not as easy as it looks,” he said, as he tried to pull on the two oars. Then one oar suddenly popped out of the oarlock. Neil was so surprised that he dropped the other oar into the pond. At first the oar looked like it was going to float. Then it slowly began to sink.

“Oh no!” yelled Dad. He dived into the lake and pulled up the oar. He handed it to Neil, and struggled back into the boat, soaking wet. “Maybe it’s better for us to row where the water is shallower,” said Neil.

What is the main idea?

The boat has two oarlocks.

The rowboat sank.

Neil can row quite well.

Neil tries to row the boat.

Kay's dad is teaching her to bowl. He begins to explain the game to her.

"Don't tell me about it," says Kay. "Show me." Dad picks up the bowling ball, holds it at his waist, takes three steps to the line on the floor, and lets go of the ball. The ball rolls down the lane and knocks down all ten pins.

"A strike!" yells Dad.

"Does that mean you're out?" asks Kay. Dad smiles. "No, that's baseball. A strike in bowling means you hit all ten pins with one ball. It's called a spare when you hit all ten pins with two tries."

"Can I try?" asks Kay. "It looks easy."

She picks up the ball. "Yikes!" she groans. "I hope I don't drop it on my toe!" She takes three steps, aims the ball, and throws. It rolls slowly down the alley and knocks down three pins.

"I didn't get a strike," Kay says sadly.

"Don't feel bad," says Dad. "You did well for a beginner. A lot of people can't roll the ball down the lane on their first try."

What is the main idea?

☐ Kay drops the ball on her toe.

☐ Kay tries bowling.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Kay takes three steps.

☐ Kay gets a strike.

☐ Dad gets a strike.

☐ The ball hits three pins.

☐ Dad gets a spare.

☐ Kay picks up the ball.

Mom _____, "Please _____ here."
said arm smart come

Dad drives the _____ to the _____ lot.
spark car jar parking

At sunset it _____ to get _____.
dark card starts barn

Your hand is at the _____ of your _____.
far arm lie end

The _____ are very _____ away.
far park stars cried

It is snowing, and Mr. Sloan wants to get home from his job safely. He doesn't live far away, so he tries to drive home. The road is icy, and Mr. Sloan drives slowly, but the snow is getting deeper and deeper. It is snowing so hard that Mr. Sloan can hardly see the road as he drives around the corner.

Then the car gets stuck in the snow. Mr. Sloan gets out to look at the tires. He looks up and sees where he is.

"I'm stuck in the road next to my own driveway!" he says. "That's lucky!"

Where does Mr. Sloan's car get stuck? It gets stuck

far away near his home in the mud in the rain

When does Mr. Sloan laugh? Mr. Sloan laughs when he sees

the deep snow the car's tires his driveway his job

One Sunday morning Bev sees the school band marching down North Street to the park. She likes the beat of the drum best, but when she sees her friend Sally in the front row playing the French horn, she thinks to herself, "I want to try that."

The next day at school, Bev sees Sally in the locker room. "Can I try to play your French horn?" she asks. "I might want to take lessons."

Sally nods, gets her horn out of her locker, and hands it to Bev.

"Here you go," she says. Bev tries to play while Sally is putting on her gym shorts. Bev's cheeks puff out and she gets red, but not a squeak comes out of the horn.

"Try holding your lips tight," says Sally, when she sees what Bev is doing. Bev tries again, but no luck.

"Try blowing harder," says Sally.

Bev blows harder, with her lips tight, and this time she gets out a low note.

"Thanks, Sally," she says. "I'm going to ask Mom and Dad if I can take French horn lessons."

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bev wants to play the drums. | Bev blows the horn of the car. |
| Bev tries to blow the horn. | The horn is hollow. |

Gail is taking care of her little sister, Kate. The wind begins to blow hard, and it starts to get dark outside. The sisters look out the window. The sky is a greenish-gray. Suddenly they hear a peal of thunder. The thunder startles Kate and she jumps away from the window.

“Help, Gail!” she cries. “I’m afraid! I don’t like thunderstorms!”

Gail goes over to Kate and puts her arms around her. “It’s all right,” says Gail. “We are safe here inside the house as long as we don’t take a bath or use the phone, and stay away from the stove and fridge.”

Just then a bright lightning bolt flashes. Gail takes her sister’s hand.

“The lightning flashed a long time after the thunder. That means that the thunderstorm is far away, so it is harmless to us.”

Kate sighs. “Let’s go tell my dolls and stuffed animals that they don’t have to be afraid.”

What is the main idea?

☐ The thunderstorm is far away.

☐ The thunderstorm is close by.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ The sisters hear thunder.

_____ Lightning strikes the house.

_____ The lightning flashes.

_____ Gail hugs Kate.

_____ The wind blows hard.

_____ The sky is dark blue.

The woman's _____ is _____ .

mark bark Marge name

Marge has a large _____ of _____ .

hard glue jar good

The dog _____ and _____ .

barked part yard snarled

The farmer has _____ in his _____ .

march barn sheep starve

Marge had lots of _____ at the _____ .

cart fun smart party

There's always something happening at the Paine's farm. In the morning, Mr. Paine feeds oats, hay, and water to the horses, the sheep, and the steer, while Mrs. Paine feeds and waters the goats, chickens, and pigs. After the animals have eaten, Mr. Paine milks the goats and puts the animals out to graze, and his wife lets the chickens out into the barnyard.

For the rest of the day they tend the crops in their garden, and take care of things that need to be fixed. Sometimes the hay needs to be cut and baled; sometimes the sheep need to be sheared.

At night, the chores are the same as the morning, except that the animals have to be led back into the barn for dinner. There's lots of hard work to do on a farm, but Mr. and Mrs. Paine like growing crops and raising animals.

What do the horses eat? They eat hay and

barley

corn

bran

oats

Where do the animals sleep? They sleep in the

grass

pigpen

barn

barnyard

Jeff and his mom were sitting on the back steps. The sun was setting, and it was getting dark. Jeff saw something sparkling up in the dark sky. He spoke softly:

“Star light, star bright,
First star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might
Have the wish I wish tonight.”

Then he closed his eyes tight and made a wish. But when he looked up, the sparkling light was gone.

“Mom, what happened to the first star?” he asked.

Mom gave him a hug. “That wasn’t a star, dear. It was a lightning bug. A lightning bug glows in the dark. It sleeps in the day time and hunts at night.”

Jeff looked sad. “Do you think my wish will still come true?” he asked.

Mom smiled. “I bet it will,” she told him.

What is the main idea?

Jeff wishes on a star.

The star is sparkling.

Jeff wishes on a lightning bug.

Jeff catches the lightning bug.

Mark and Dee are upstairs playing a game. Dee is running to find a place to hide, and Mark is yelling “. . . four, five, six, here I come!”

Dee wants to hide far away, so she runs downstairs and goes out to the backyard. Mark hears the stairs creaking. “She must be behind the big red easy chair,” he says to himself. But he doesn’t find her there.

“I’ve got an idea!” thinks Mark. “Maybe she’s out in the car.”

He runs out the front door to the driveway. Just as he starts to get in the car, he sees Dee’s arm sticking out from behind the corner of the house.

“I see you!” he yells, as he runs to tag her.

What is the main idea?

☐ The children play Hide-and-Seek.

☐ Dee is under the stairs.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Mark finds Dee in the den.

☐ Dee runs outside.

☐ Dee hides in the car.

☐ Mark looks downstairs.

☐ Mark finds Dee outside.

☐ The children are upstairs.

Bart saw a huge _____ in the _____ .
sea shark hard either

Dad's _____ is made of _____ cloth.
suit army dark spark

_____ and _____ are men's names.
Marge Mark Carl tar

The dogs _____ in the back _____ .
barked yarn partly yard

The kids _____ at the _____ .
arm park play hard

Deer live all over the U.S.A. They have long, thin legs, short tails, and large, thin ears. Deer can run fast and jump high. They can see, hear, and smell keenly. They eat little plants and buds, twigs, low bushes, moss, tree leaves, and bark.

There are lots of kinds of deer. The white-tailed deer, the black-tailed deer, the elk, the key deer, and the mule deer are five kinds of deer.

The male deer are named bucks, or stags. They grow big horns or antlers made of bone. Each winter they shed the antlers, and each spring they grow back. At first the antlers are soft, but then they grow hard as a rock. The doe is the female deer. Most female deer don't have antlers.

What is the male deer called? He is called a _____

_____.

black-tailed doe buck antler

When does the deer shed the antlers? He sheds them in the _____

_____.

spring summer winter daytime

Seals are animals that live in the sea. They can be between three and sixteen feet long. Their shape is streamlined, like a racing car, so that they can swim fast. In place of arms and legs, they have short flippers. Their back flippers help them steer when they swim, like fish's tails.

Lots of times seals like to swim on their backs. When they are on the shore, they get from place to place by inching forward on their bellies. In Maine, you can see seals sitting on rock ledges in the sun, but they are scared of people, so if they hear you go by in a boat they will jump back into the sea.

Seals have a layer of thick fat under their skin to keep them from getting cold in the sea. This fat is called blubber.

Seals' ears don't show the way people's ears do. They are just little holes.

Some seals, mainly babies, make a bleating sound; some snarl and bark, and some roar.

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Seals are reptiles. | Seals are suited to the sea. |
| Seals have flippers. | Blubber keeps seals cold. |

Carly held the ladder against the oak tree while Mark carried up a large board.

"This is the last board for the north wall," Mark said as he nailed the board to the treehouse. Carly followed him up the steps.

"We can see really far from here. I bet this is the tallest treehouse around," she said. "We can see all the way down to the corner store!"

"Yup," said Mark. "And we can spy on Bobby, next door." They both giggled at that idea.

"Kids! Supper!" Dad called from the back door.

"Let's ask if we can eat up here," said Carly, as she started down the ladder.

"Good idea," said Mark, close behind her.

Dad said OK, and gave them dinner on a tray. They stayed in the treehouse until dark.

What is the main idea?

___ Dad said the treehouse was not safe.

___ The children used the treehouse.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ They ate dinner up there.

_____ Carly held the board.

_____ The ladder fell down.

_____ Carly followed him.

_____ Mark went up the ladder.

_____ The children looked around.

Dad drove the _____ to the _____ .
part car farm scar

Carl and _____ play _____ .
cards Marty sharp snarl

Mom _____ the car in the back _____ .
parks carve yard shark

_____ said that the test was _____ .
partly starve hard Bart

The _____ will _____ at six o'clock.
little after start party

Robby wants to be an artist when he grows up. He has been taking art lessons on weekends since March. His art class is going to have a show of paintings on Sunday morning in the parking lot next to the art school.

On Sunday morning, Robby goes to help his art teacher set up the show. They string cord from one corner of the lot to another; then they hang the paintings on the cord. Robby's painting is a large seascape, with some sailboats in a harbor and a white lighthouse on the shore. He made the sky light blue and the grass on the shore dark green. His painting is in a gold frame and has a tan mat.

Robby was pleased that his mother and father came to the show.

"I like your painting," said Dad. "I feel like I can smell the sea."

"Me, too," added Mom. "It looks like you worked hard on it."

Where was the art show? It was in _____

Robby's house the parking lot a lighthouse the art store

When was the art show? It was _____

all weekend on Sunday March 3 for three days

It is the end of the school year, so Mark is having a party. He invites some friends to go for a hayride. When they get to the farm, they see a cart filled with hay, and the farmer hitching a mule up to the cart.

“Where is the black horse that pulled the cart last time?” Mark asks the farmer.

“He has a sore leg,” the farmer tells him. “Jump in.”

The farmer tries to get the mule to walk on the road, but the mule won’t budge. It smells the hay in the cart and keeps trying to eat it.

The angry farmer starts hollering, but then he gets an idea. He grabs a handful of hay from the cart and runs in front of the mule. The mule sees the hay and starts to walk to get it.

“Yippee!” cheer the children in the cart, as the hayride begins.

What is the main idea?

The black horse pulls the cart.

The mule eats all the hay.

The cart tips over.

The hayride starts late.

Lee walked into the den where Dad was reading.

“Look at my blue jeans,” he said, holding them up to show Dad. “I have worn them so much that there are holes in the knees. But I’ve had them for so long and I like them so much that I don’t want to throw them out.”

“Well,” said Dad, taking the jeans from Lee and holding them up to see the holes, “We can either patch them or we can make shorts out of them by cutting off the torn part. Which do you want to do?”

“Summer’s coming, so I’ll vote for the shorts,” replied Lee.

Dad went into the kitchen for a little while and came back with a pair of blue shorts, which he handed to Lee.

“Thanks, Dad,” said Lee. “These shorts are neat.”

What is the main idea?

___ Dad patches Lee’s jeans.

___ Lee gets a pair of shorts.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Lee shows Dad his jeans.

_____ Dad gets shorts at the store.

_____ Dad cuts off the legs of the jeans.

_____ Dad puts a patch on the holes.

_____ Dad takes the jeans to the
kitchen.

_____ Dad hands the shorts to Lee.

The _____ ripped Carl's _____ .
wore shorts thorn north

Mr. Carter's first _____ is _____ .
snore Norm Marge name

The colt was _____ in the _____ .
sport morning marking born

The _____ of jam has a _____ in it.
jar boring cork torn

It was snowing _____ in the _____ .
hard storm score worn

As Pete and his dad rowed out of the harbor at Black Bay, Pete suddenly yelled, "Look! There's a cork floating over there in the water. Maybe it's stuck in a bottle!"

Dad rowed over to where the cork was bobbing up and down in the waves. Pete reached into the bay.

"I've got it," he said. "It's stuck in a jar, and there's a note in it."

Dad pulled the oars into the boat. "What does the note say?" he asked.

Pete unfolded the note and began to read it. It said, "If you find this note, you will have good luck. I am a fisherman. DMC. March, 1980."

"Just think! That bottle has been bobbing around in the sea all that time!" said Pete. "I hope the note comes true!"

When was the note written? The note was written

last week a year ago last year in 1980

Where did Pete see the cork? Pete saw the cork in the

blue bottle bay Black Sea stream

Norm mows the grass in Mr. Forman's yard each weekend. It's the biggest yard Norm mows, but he charges Mr. Forman just ten dollars, which is a good deal.

Last weekend there was a bad rainstorm. It rained off and on for three days, so Norm had to wait to do the mowing. At last, on Tuesday, the sky cleared and it was sunny. By two o'clock, the grass had dried and was fine to mow.

Mr. Forman was not home when Norm did the job. The grass had grown a lot, so it was hard to mow, but Norm tried his best. After he got that done, he clipped the tall grass next to the house.

At four o'clock, Mr. Forman came to pay Norm.

"Thanks for doing the clipping," he said. "The yard looks really nice."

He handed Norm twelve dollars and Norm was pleased.

What is the main idea?

Norm clips and mows the grass.

Mr. Forman comes home.

Norm gets four dollars.

The rainstorm lasts four weeks.

Beavers have wide, flat tails that help them in lots of ways. When they are using their sharp teeth to cut down trees for their lodges, they stand on their two short legs and use their tails to support themselves. In this case, the tail is like a third leg. It keeps the beaver from falling over when he is biting at the tree trunk.

Beavers' tails also come in handy when they are swimming. They use their tails like paddles to help them steer as they swim.

Lastly, beavers slap the mud with their tails when they want to send other beavers a warning.

What is the main idea?

☐ Beavers' tails are useful.

☐ Beavers are smart animals.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ They put a log on the lodge.

☐ Beavers wag their tails at friends.

☐ They use their tails while swimming.

☐ Beavers use their tails to stand up.

☐ They chase otters with their tails.

☐ They slap their tails as a signal.

The _____ has a _____ mane and a tail.
cord short fork horse

They ate _____ and _____ for dinner.
park cards pork corn

Baseball is a _____ for the _____.
summer sport snort start

Carl _____ a pair of _____.
fort wore horn shorts

The puppy _____ when it _____.
boring snores sleeps cart

March 30—I went to the store and got a packet of corn seeds.

May 20—I dug up a garden in the backyard.

May 24—I planted a row of corn seeds in the garden.

May 31—Little green buds started to show.

June 15—I thinned out the weakest plants and left the strongest ones there to grow.

June 20—It hasn't rained in days, so I had to water the garden with the hose.

September 1—I picked my first batch of corn. Some friends came over for dinner. We
had corn on the cob and baked fish. It was yummy.

September 15—I chased a deer out of the garden. He bit the tops off the two biggest
plants!

September 20—I've had corn on the cob for dinner fifteen times since September 1.

September 22—A frost came and killed all the corn plants. Next year I'll plant corn
again—and maybe I'll plant popcorn seeds, too!

—Mrs. Campbell

What did Mrs. Campbell thin out? She thinned out the _____

_____ plants.

strongest weakest tallest shortest

Who or what killed the corn plants? _____

_____ killed them.

Mrs. Campbell A deer Friends Frost

About five hundred years ago, in a time called the Middle Ages, kings and queens ruled the lands. They were so rich that they had hundreds of people working for them.

All the land belonged to the king. He hired people called lords to take care of the land for him. He gave the lords castles to live in, and then the lords hired the poorest people to farm the land. The poor people had to give all the crops to the lord and the king.

The king also hired men called knights to protect him and his queen. The knights wore silver armor and carried spears in case they had to fight in a duel or a battle for the king.

The king and queen lived in a huge castle that needed many people to keep it clean and in order. There were gate-keepers, maids, butchers, tailors, blacksmiths, candle-makers, people to tend the moat, and many more. The king even had a jester—a man who danced, did tricks, and told jokes just to make the king happy.

What is the main idea?

The king worked at many jobs.

Many people worked for the king.

The Middle Ages hasn't happened yet.

In the Middle Ages there were butchers.

Fran is sweeping the barn when she hears a “Clip, clop.” She looks up and sees her horse trotting out of the open door of his stall.

She grabs a rope and runs to catch the horse, but he canters away. She looks up and down and all around the road, but she does not see him, so she rides her bike to the farms nearby to see if he is there. No luck. Fran hunts and hunts, but she still can’t find him.

After a while it starts to get dark. Fran says to herself, “I think I’d better get some help.” She goes back to the barn. And there she finds her horse, standing in his stall waiting for her.

What is the main idea?

___ The dog runs away.

___ The horse plays a joke.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Fran hunts for her horse.

_____ Fran finds her horse standing in

_____ Fran sees her horse at a nearby
farm.

the barn.

_____ Fran smiles at her horse.

_____ Fran is sweeping the barn.

_____ The horse trots out of the barn.

The girl _____ off the _____ .

stir turns fur T.V.

The boy's _____ name is _____ .

dirt first Kurt chirp

Pete ate the _____ with _____ on it.

ketchup burger shirt thirsty

Ed _____ the _____ that he made.

bird chilly shirt wore

The dog naps in a _____ in the _____ .

sir firm hole dirt

Fern lives with her mom, but she sees her dad on Thursdays and on weekends. This Thursday is Fern's birthday.

"Where do you want to go for your birthday dinner?" asks Dad when he picks her up on Thursday at three-thirty.

"The burger place," replies Fern, and off they go.

"I think I'll try the turkey sandwich this time," says Dad as they reach the drive-up window, "but you order first. Order what you want." Fern leans out the window.

"Beef burger, large order of French fries, and a cherry milkshake, please. And do you have birthday cake? Today is my birthday." The girl who is taking the order smiles.

"We don't have cake, but I'll see what I can do." After a while she comes back with Fran's order, plus a free apple pie with a candle in the middle of it.

"Happy Birthday!" she tells Fran.

What does Fran get to eat? She gets a _____

cheeseburger beef burger turkey sandwich cake

Who orders the turkey sandwich? _____

_____ orders it.

Mom Fern Dad The girl

The turtle is a reptile that lives inside a hard shell made of bone. You can tell how old a turtle is by counting the rings on the shell, but it is sometimes hard to see the rings.

Turtles don't have teeth, so they cannot cut or grind food. They eat small insects, worms, snails, slugs, and crayfish, and they drink a lot of water.

Some turtles live just on land, some live just in the sea or lakes, and some live on land and in water. Land turtles are the slowest and most clumsy. They have short legs and stubby feet and are not good fighters, so they need their shells to hide in.

All turtles lay their eggs on land, in a nest in a sunny place. They tend to live for a long time. They are strong, and if they are hurt it doesn't take them long to get better.

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Turtles can have a hundred rings. | Turtles are weak animals. |
| Turtles are reptiles. | Some turtles live in the sea. |

Ms. Carter came marching into the house. "There's something wrong with my car," she said to her stepson, Marco. "I can't get it to start. When I turn the key, I don't hear a thing."

"I'll see what I can do," said Marco, who was sixteen years old. He stopped doing his homework and followed her out to the driveway. "It might be a wet wire from the rainstorm, or maybe it's the spark plugs."

He looked inside the front. "I think I see what the problem is," he said right away. "See all that white junk on those wires?" he asked. "The battery can't charge with all that stuff all over it. He cleaned the messy wires and put them back on the battery. "Try to start the car again," he said.

Ms. Carter got in the car and turned the key. The car started right away. "Thanks, Marco," she said. "I'm glad you know about cars!"

What is the main idea?

☐ Marco helps his stepmother.

☐ Marco watches TV.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Ms. Carter fixes her own car.

☐ The car starts.

☐ The spark plugs are bad.

☐ Ms. Carter asks Marco for help.

☐ Marco fixes the car.

☐ The car won't start.

The two _____ are swimming in the _____ .
jerk girls surf germ

Some people go to _____ on _____ .
church turtle Sunday fir

That _____ is a _____ dumb bird.
enter large thunder turkey

_____ is the _____ oldest child in the class.
burro Bert third stir

Kurt _____ the cake mix _____ the TV show.
during lantern birch stirred

Jenny had been waiting up all night to see her mare give birth to its first foal, but at about five in the morning she fell asleep by the stall.

She woke up to a surprise. A black colt was lying in the hay, and the mare was licking him dry. His wet mane and tail were curly, and his hair was shiny with wetness. He had a white star in the middle of his face.

“I’ll name you Star,” said Jenny. “Happy birthday, Star.”

Then the colt began to stand up—or at least he tried to stand up. He stretched out his front feet first, but they were too wobbly. By the time he picked up his back feet, his front feet buckled under, and he fell down—plop—in the hay. The colt snorted. Then he tried again.

“Come on, Star! You can do it!” cheered Jenny. And this time he did.

What part of the foal had white on it? The foal had white on its _____

face legs mane tail

Where was the foal? It was in the _____

grass house hay stars

Squirrels are furry gray animals with big, thick bushy tails that they can curl around them to keep warm. They have strong hind legs to help them get up trees and jump from branch to branch. Their teeth are strong, too, so they can crush nuts and seeds.

Squirrels live in hollow tree trunks or in the branches of trees, where they make their nests. They gather leaves, twigs, or bits of dried bark to put in their nests to make them soft.

Squirrels do other gathering, too. Since they stay in their nests in the winter, in the fall they collect corn, berries, nuts, or seeds and store them to eat during the cold. You may have seen squirrels gathering acorns and putting them inside their cheeks to take back to their nests.

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Squirrels do their gathering in the winter. | Squirrels have curly tails. |
| Squirrels have lots to do. | Squirrels jump in trees. |

Kay is watching Dad make popcorn in the popcorn maker they just got at the hardware store. First he pours in the kernels. Then he puts the top on the popcorn maker and turns it on.

Kay watches the window on the side of the popcorn maker. Inside, the hot air begins to blow. A fan blows the kernels around in circles so they don't burn on the bottom. After a while, the first kernel bursts. The sudden POP startles Kay, and she jumps. Then lots of other kernels begin to pop. The corn is whirling and spinning in the hot air. Before long, the popped kernels fill up the popcorn maker. Dad puts a dab of butter in the top of the lid to melt, and turns it off.

"Get a big bowl, Kay," he says. "This is going to be a treat!"

What is the main idea?

☐ Kay pops the popcorn.

☐ Kay watches Dad make popcorn.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ The butter gets too hot.

☐ Dad pours in the kernels.

☐ The kernels burst.

☐ He turns on the popcorn maker.

☐ The kernels whirl in the air.

☐ Kay eats all the popcorn.

Flora saw a _____ of _____ .

hard horses enter herd

Herb drops the _____ in the mail _____ .

box ladder teacher letter

The _____ wore a blue _____ .

girl dirt skirt burn

Carlos will be _____ on his next _____ .

pork thirteen bunny birthday

The _____ put ice on Dan's _____ .

silly nurse burn thirty

Herb sat on the train to Denver looking out the window. He was going to visit his uncle. This was a three-day trip, so he saw all kinds of sights. He saw skyscrapers, trees, cliffs, rainbows, farms, barns, blue sky, and green farm land. He saw burros, turkeys, wild deer, and steer roaming the western plains.

On the last day of the trip Herb saw the best sight of all. As the train speeded along a wide, flat plain there was a herd of wild horses grazing not far from the tracks. When the train passed by, the horses lifted their tails in the air and began to buck and snort. Then the leader of the herd began to gallop alongside the train, and the rest of the herd followed—black, gray, white, and spotted horses all running next to the train.

“The horses seem to be racing with the train,” Herb said to himself. “I hope they win!”

Where was Herb going? He was going to _____

the west coast the east coast a horse farm Denver

What did the horses do? They _____

saw Herb raced the train chased the steer rolled over

Kurt Carver is a state cop. Tonight he is in a cruiser, parked between two birch trees on the side of the highway, watching for cars that are speeding.

Before long, a little red sports car races by at top speed. Kurt turns on the blue and white lights on the top of the cruiser and takes off after it. At first, the driver doesn't see the lights flashing behind him, or maybe he just doesn't want to stop. He passes a van, then veers back into the right lane.

But Kurt follows right behind him. At last, the driver turns off the highway and screeches to a halt. Kurt stops his car, gets out, and gives the driver a speeding ticket.

"You've got to slow down," he says to the man, "or you're going to hurt someone."

What is the main idea?

The sports car hits the cruiser.

Kurt catches the speeder.

The sports car is red.

The speeder gets away.

Bert asked Dee to go to the square dance with him on Thursday night. Dee was pleased. It was her first time at a square dance. She liked braiding her hair and dressing up in a long purple skirt. When Bert came to pick her up, he looked handsome in his checked shirt and blue jeans. He told her how nice she looked.

The barn was packed full of people when Bert and Dee walked in, and things were really lively. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Kirk were playing fiddle, and Mrs. Beatly was calling the dances. Men and women were in a circle, holding hands, then dancing arm in arm in pairs, then twirling and whirling around with their partners.

“Shall we dance?” asked Bert, as he put out his arm to Dee.

“Let’s,” replied Dee, and they walked on to the dance floor.

What is the main idea?

☐ Dee and Bert look nice.

☐ Dee and Bert go dancing.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Dee gets dressed up.

☐ They go to the barn.

☐ Bert asks Dee to go dancing.

☐ Mrs. Beatly plays the fiddle.

☐ Bert and Dee dance.

☐ Mr. Hammond plays the flute.

The _____ gets _____ prize.
first squirm winner during

The _____ was _____ in the nest.
manners bird chirping shirt

The girl kicked the _____ with her _____.
curl spare horse spurs

Kurt put on his _____ and _____.
robe third slippers curve

The _____ and _____ will help the hurt boy.
twirl nurse snarl doctor

Bart made a birdfeeder in carpentry class. His mother and father hung it outside the kitchen window. Bart was excited when the first sparrow arrived and began pecking at the birdseed. Soon there was hardly any birdseed left in the feeder.

"Those sparrows really eat fast!" exclaimed Bart. But just then two squirrels scampered up the trunk of the tree and jumped across onto the feeder.

"I think the squirrels are the ones who ate all that birdseed," said his father. "We'd better think of a way to keep them out of the feeder."

"I've got an idea," said Bart. He got two plastic plates from the kitchen cupboard and poked holes in them. Then he hung one on top of the birdfeeder and the other underneath it. After a while, a squirrel crept up the tree and jumped across to the birdfeeder. But this time he landed on the slippery plastic plate and slid off. The next time he tried to go down the rope the feeder was hanging from, but the other plate was in the way.

"It looks like you solved the squirrel problem," said his father. Before long, the sparrows had returned.

Where did Mother and Father put the feeder? They put it in the _____

birch tree maple tree carpentry class kitchen

Who put the plates up? _____
_____ put the plates up.

Father Bart Mother Squirrels

Kurt had his first sailing lesson when he was at camp this summer. In fact, it was his first time in a boat and he was surprised at how tippy it was. The sailing teacher told him to be careful as he stepped off the dock into the boat.

“You are sitting in the stern of the boat. It means the back,” the teacher told him. “And that curved stick you are holding is called the rudder. The rudder of the boat is like the steering wheel of a car, except for one thing. In a sailboat, when you want to go to the right you push the rudder to the left. And we don’t say the ‘right’ in a boat; we say ‘starboard.’ And we call the left the ‘port.’

“Now let’s put up the sail. This rope is connected to a pulley. Pull the rope down and the sail will go up.”

“This is very confusing,” Kurt said. “I’m afraid I’ll forget it all.”

“Don’t worry,” said the teacher. “Sailing may seem hard at first, but I bet you’ll catch on fast.”

What is the main idea?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt falls off the boat. | <input type="checkbox"/> The boat has a pulley. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt turns the boat. | <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt has a sailing lesson. |

Marge's thirteenth birthday was on Tuesday, March 10. Five girls came over to her house at three-thirty and gave her a surprise party. Marge had taken her sister to her painting class, and when she came back the girls all burst out singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY! They had ice cream and a cake with thirteen candles on it—plus one to grow on! The candles were the kind that sparkle in the dark. A pile of cards and gifts was in the corner.

After they had cake and ice cream, Marge turned to the pile of cards and gifts. "I'm going to read all the cards to you," she said. "They are really cute."

Marge liked her gifts. There was a pair of wild boxer shorts, a fancy blue silk shirt, and a mirror with a silver border and handle. Three girls pitched in and got her a hair dryer. And last, but not least, was a card from Mom and Dad which said, "Next Thursday we will take you to the hairdresser, and you can have a perm."

Her first perm! Marge felt so grown-up on her thirteenth birthday—her first day as a teen.

What is the main idea?

___ Marge ate cake.

___ Marge had a birthday surprise.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

_____ Marge felt grown-up.

_____ Marge got a cake.

_____ The party was on Thursday.

_____ Marge had her third birthday.

_____ Five friends came to Marge's
house.

_____ She got cards and gifts.

A _____ is _____ next to the tree.
fern sparkle worm growing

The _____ leaped onto the _____.
firm birdfeeder purple squirrel

The dog's _____ is _____ and black.
sir during fur curly

The girl reads the first _____ of the _____.
poem verse church third

Kurt's _____ gave him a _____.
Thursday stir friend surprise

The eagle is one of the largest, strongest birds there is. Eagles' wing span can be as long as 8 feet. That means that when they hold out their wings, it is 8 feet from the tip of one wing to another. They can soar high in the air with these large wings.

Their toes are sharp and their beaks are quite strong, with the top part curling down over the bottom part. This shape helps them when they hunt. Sometimes eagles hunt small birds, but they are so big and strong that they can hunt rabbits, sheep, and deer, too.

An eagle makes its nest high up on the steep cliffs or in branches in tall trees so they will be safe. Their nests, called aeries (ayr-eez), can be as big as six feet wide.

What do eagles hunt? Eagles hunt

condors

smaller birds

larger birds

people

What are aeries? Aeries are the eagles'

wing span

eggs

nests

curved beaks

The TV in Ms. Parker's den is on, but she isn't watching it. She's thirsty, so she's in the kitchen getting a drink of water. Her dog, Duke, is sleeping in the den.

Suddenly, Ms. Parker hears Duke barking. She thinks someone may be at the front door or outside the window, so she goes and checks, but no one is around. Duke starts barking again.

Ms. Parker walks back to the den to see why he is barking. Duke is on the rug and his fur is standing up on end. When she sees the TV, Ms. Parker begins to grin. There is a dog barking on the screen. Duke must think it's a real dog!

She turns off the TV and pats Duke. "That isn't a real dog," she tells him. "He won't hurt you."

Duke looks puzzled.

What is the main idea?

Duke barks at the TV.

Ms. Parker gets a drink.

The dog barks at the squirrel.

The dogs get into a fight.

Norm was making three hamburgers—one for Mom, one for Dad, and one for himself. First he got the hamburger out of the fridge, and then he split it up into three piles. He shaped each pile into a round ball with his hands, then pressed on each ball to flatten it.

Next Norm turned on the burner to heat up the frying pan, and then set the burgers in it. He started with the heat up high, and then turned it down to keep the burgers from burning. While the burgers were frying, he toasted three buns. He set out a jar of pickles, a jar of mustard, and a bottle of ketchup. He turned each burger over, and got glasses for grape juice. Then he turned off the stove and put each burger on a bun.

“Lunch is served,” he told Mom and Dad, who were in the hall fixing a hole in the plaster.

“What a nice surprise,” said Dad when he saw lunch all made.

What is the main idea?

☐ Norm made lunch.

☐ Norm made dinner.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Norm toasted the buns.

☐ Norm made four burgers.

☐ He turned on the burner.

☐ He served the burgers.

☐ Mom made beef pot pies.

☐ Norm shaped the hamburgers.

The _____ sat on a _____ in its cage.
bird perch Bert burst

The man is _____ years _____ .
thirty first old whirl

A _____ has soft _____ leaves.
germ green jerk fern

Mom keeps her _____ in her _____ .
nurse purse cash during

Mrs. Burns wore a long _____ to the _____ .
stir party spurt skirt

Dolphins are sleek animals that live in seas and rivers. They look like small whales, growing up to twelve feet long, and are black on top and white below. They have flippers, a big fin on their backs, and a flat tail fin. They have lots of sharp teeth, and eat mostly fish. Dolphins can swim fast, and like to come up for air and bob around. They are playful animals. Out in bays they sometimes follow boats and jump up in the air behind the sterns. They don't seem to be afraid of people, and they look as if they are saying hello and having a good time.

Dolphins are quite smart. They make sounds—whistles, barks, and clicks—which seem to mean something. They are perfect subjects for people to watch and try to understand. People like dolphins. Some people think that when schools, or herds, of dolphins appear near ships as they sail out of the harbor, it means that the ship will have a good trip.

Where do dolphins live? They live in _____

boats North Bay the sea lakes

How big are dolphins? Dolphins can grow up to _____

_____ feet long.

a hundred a thousand twelve four

“Good luck,” says Mom to Kay, as Kay tightens the laces on her skates. But Kay barely hears her. It’s her first time skating in a show, and her nerves are on edge. She adjusts the strap of her fur hat and waits for her turn. Her hands are shaking.

Then Kay hears her name. “I hope people can’t see me shaking,” she thinks.

She starts by skating around in a circle, first on one foot and then on two. The blades on her skates are so sharp that they scratch a perfect circle into the ice. People cheer, but Kay doesn’t hear them. Her mind is all on skating. Now she is no longer shaking.

She leans on one skate and holds her other toe in her hand. Then she bends down on one knee, tips her head back, and holds her arms out at each side. Her turn is over.

At last Kay hears the cheering and clapping! She is so glad it’s over and that she did a good job that she bursts into happy tears as soon as she steps off the ice.

What is the main idea?

- Kay falls on the ice.
- Kay tightens her skates.
- Kay does a good job.
- Kay twirls and spins.

The flurries started as the sun set behind the big brick church. A layer of snow dusted cars, streets, and sidewalks. Before he went to bed, five-year-old Bert looked out at the lightly falling snow.

As he snuggled under his blanket and quilt he started thinking about what he wanted to do in the morning if there was no school. Maybe he'd sleep late. No. He'd get up at six and see if the snow was good for sledding. If it looked like it was deep, he'd have some juice, an oat bran muffin, and a glass of milk. Then he'd call his friend Carl and see if he wanted to go over to the park to go sledding. If he did, he'd get out his sled and meet Carl at the corner.

Drifting off to sleep, Bert dreamed he was whizzing down the hill, with the snow swirling all around him.

What is the main idea?

☐ Bert wants to go sledding.

☐ Bert is sleeping late.

1, 2, 3, 4, or X?

☐ Bert fell out of bed.

☐ He dreamed he was whizzing
down the hill.

☐ The flurries were falling.

☐ Bert went to bed.

☐ He'd get up at six.

☐ He cleared off the snow.

Phonetic Elements

Introduce vowel digraphs, *igh* words, r-controlled vowels

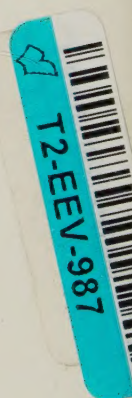
Phonetic approximations

Two- and three-syllable phonetically predictable words, compound words, inflected words

Inflections/Suffixes: *-en, -er, -est, -ful, -ies/-ied, -ly*

Sight words: *(a)round, been, come, friend, idea, live(i̇), other, over, some, two, walk, water, where, who*

EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE, INC.
31 Smith Place, Cambridge, MA 02138-1000
1-800-225-5750



ISBN 0-8388-1887-0